

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/463,681

Examiner

Kishor Mayekar

Applicant(s)

BLUM ET AL.

Art Unit

1753

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment of 1/22/2004 and the interview of 3/22/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3, 12-18 and 20-22.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 3/22/2004 .
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Kishor Mayekar
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 1753

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney C. Beck on March 22, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

Claim 1, line 5, replace "without spraying" with --, without spraying,--; and

line 7, insert --on the primer layer-- before "and stoving".

Cancel claims 5-7, 9 and 10.

Add new claims:

20. (New) A process for finishing the surface of an automobile or a component thereof with a protective and decorative laminar finish consisting of:

applying a primer layer of a coating composition which is electrically conductive in the stoved state, without spraying, onto an electrically conductive substrate and stoving said primer layer;

stamping or cutting the primed electrically conductive substrate to form an automobile or component thereof;

shaping said automobile or component thereof three-dimensionally;

electrophoretically depositing a second coating layer of an electrodepositable coating composition on the shaped automobile or component and stoving said second coating layer; and

bonding a thermoplastic film directly on the second coating layer using an adhesive to form a third coating layer of the protective and decorative laminar finish;

wherein said thermoplastic film, either alone or in conjunction with the second coating layer, determines the decorative effect of the laminar finish.

21. (New) A process for finishing the surface of an automobile with a protective and decorative laminar finish consisting of:

applying a primer layer of a coating composition which is electrically conductive in the stoved state, without spraying, onto an electrically conductive substrate in the form of an automobile component and stoving said primer layer;

assembling said automobile component having the applied primer layer;

electrophoretically depositing a second coating layer of an electrodepositable coating composition on the assembled automobile component and stoving said second coating layer; and

bonding a thermoplastic film directly on the second coating layer using an adhesive to form a third coating layer of the protective and decorative laminar finish;

wherein said thermoplastic film, either alone or in conjunction with the second coating layer, determines the decorative effect of the laminar finish.

22. (New) A process for finishing the surface of an automobile or a component thereof with a protective and decorative laminar finish consisting of:

applying a primer layer of a coating composition which is electrically conductive in the stoved state to an electrically conductive sheet metal coil by a coil coating process and stoving said primer layer;

stamping out sheet metal components from the sheet metal coil having the applied primer layer and shaping said metal components;

electrophoretically depositing a second coating layer of an electrodepositable coating composition on the shaped metal components and stoving said second coating layer; and

bonding a thermoplastic film directly on the second coating layer using an adhesive to form a third coating layer of the protective and decorative laminar finish;

wherein said thermoplastic film, either alone or in conjunction with the second coating layer, determines the decorative effect of the laminar finish.

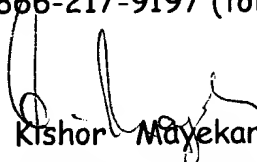
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Because the independent claims have been amended to clearly distinguish from the prior art references.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kishor Mayekar whose telephone number is (571) 272-1339. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nam Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-1342. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Kishor Mayekar
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1753